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Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4680th meeting

Friday, 20 December 2002, 7.40 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Valdivieso	(Colombia)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Raytchev
	Cameroon	Mr. Chungong Ayafor
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Mexico	Mr. Pujalte
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Singapore	Ms. Lee
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Wehbe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Negroponte

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

02-75282 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 7.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djangone-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) and Mr. Fall (Senegal) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2002/1386, which contains the text of a letter dated 19 December 2002 from Senegal addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the text of the Final Communiqué of the Economic Community of West African States on Côte d'Ivoire, adopted at Dakar on 18 December 2002.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and its serious consequences for the population of this country and the region. The Council firmly condemns attempts to use force to influence the political situation in Côte d'Ivoire and to overthrow the elected Government. It calls for full respect for the constitutional order of Côte d'Ivoire and emphasizes its full support for the legitimate Government of Côte d'Ivoire. It stresses also the need to respect the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Côte d'Ivoire. It calls on all States in the region to refrain from any interference in Côte d'Ivoire.

"The Security Council stresses that the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire can be solved only through a negotiated and peaceful political solution. It calls upon all parties involved in the conflict to work actively to achieve such a solution and to abstain from any act or declaration that could jeopardize efforts to that end. Such a solution must address the underlying causes of the conflict.

"The Security Council strongly supports the efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), currently chaired by Senegal, to promote a peaceful resolution of the conflict. It urges ECOWAS leaders to further their efforts in a coordinated manner. In this regard, it welcomes the Final Communiqué adopted on 18 December 2002 (S/2002/1386) at the extraordinary Summit of Heads of States and Government of ECOWAS in Dakar.

"In particular the Security Council welcomes the commitment by the President of Côte d'Ivoire to submit in the coming days a comprehensive plan to end the crisis. It stresses that such a plan is a crucial step towards achieving a peaceful solution and calls upon the President of Côte d'Ivoire to involve fully all parties and to seek consensus among them.

"The Security Council also takes note of paragraph 18 of the Final Communiqué of the Dakar Summit, whereby ECOWAS requests the United Nations and the Secretary-General to contribute to the resolution of the crisis. The Council commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to promote a negotiated settlement, in coordination with ECOWAS. The Council requests him to continue those efforts, particularly by providing all necessary support and assistance to the ECOWAS mediation. The Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it regularly informed about the situation.

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the deployment in Côte d'Ivoire of the ECOMOG force, under the command of Senegal, before 31 December 2002 as called for in the Final Communiqué of the Dakar Summit. It

commends all ECOWAS countries which have decided to contribute troops to this force and calls upon the international community to provide assistance to it.

"The Security Council also commends France for its efforts, at the request of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, to prevent further fighting, on a provisional basis pending the deployment of the ECOMOG force. It also expresses its appreciation for the efforts of France to contribute to a political solution of the crisis, including the possible hosting of meetings related to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. It also recognizes the efforts of the African Union towards a resolution of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

"The Security Council expresses its deepest concerns at reports of mass killings and serious violations of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire. It calls on all parties to ensure full respect for human rights and international law, particularly with regard to the civilian population regardless of its origin, and to bring to justice all those responsible for any violation thereof. The Council welcomes the decision by the Secretary-General to request the High Commissioner for Human Rights to send a mission to gather precise information regarding the violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire, including through the dispatch of a fact-finding mission.

"The Security Council also expresses its concern at the humanitarian consequences of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. It calls upon the international community to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to those in need throughout the subregion affected by the Ivoirian crisis. It also calls on all parties to provide unhindered access to affected populations."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2002/42.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 7.45 p.m.